

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-76. (Cancelled)

77 (currently amended). A combination of a chemical mechanical polishing composition in contact with ~~and method for polishing~~ a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, ~~a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof,~~ said combination comprising:

~~providing to said~~ a substrate comprising submicron integrated circuits and having a surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal;

said substrate surface contacting a chemical mechanical polishing composition comprising: periodic acid and an abrasive in a combined amount sufficient to render the substrate surface substantially planar and to maintain a polishing rate of between 300 Angstroms per minute to about 2000 Angstroms per minute upon chemical-mechanical polishing thereof, wherein periodic acid is in an amount from about 0.05 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram. ~~;~~ ~~and said composition having a pH selected from a group consisting of a pH from about pH 1 to less than pH 2 and a pH from above pH 5 to about pH 10~~

~~polishing a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof, polishing rate of said at least one feature is from about 300 Angstroms per minute to about 2000 Angstroms per minute.~~

78 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, wherein periodic acid is in an amount from about 0.075 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram.

79 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, wherein periodic acid is in an amount from about 0.075 to about 0.175 moles/kilogram.

80 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, wherein the abrasive is in an amount from about 0.2 to about 6 weight percent.

81 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, wherein the abrasive is in an amount from about 0.2 to about 4 weight percent.

82 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, further comprising a pH-adjusting agent, wherein the pH is from about pH 5 to about pH 10.

83 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, further comprising a pH-adjusting agent, wherein the pH is from about pH 1 to about pH 4.

84 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 83, wherein the composition consists essentially of water, periodic acid, an abrasive, and a pH-adjusting agent is selected from a group consisting of a quaternary amine, an inorganic base, and any combination thereof.

85 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 83, wherein the pH-adjusting agent comprises an agent selected from a group consisting of tetramethylammonium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and any combination thereof.

86 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, further comprising a suspension agent.

87 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 86, wherein the suspension agent comprises an agent is selected from a group consisting of an organic acid, a surfactant, another abrasive, and ethyl carbonate.

88 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 77, wherein the abrasive comprises an abrasive having a Mohs hardness number of greater than about 6.5.

89 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 77, wherein the abrasive comprises an abrasive selected from a group consisting of alumina, silica, zirconia, spinel, zirconium nitride, carbide, and any combination thereof

90 (currently amended). The combination method of any of claims 77 through 86, wherein the abrasive comprises alumina.

91 (currently amended). The combination method of any of claims 77 through 86, wherein the feature comprises a material selected from a group consisting of Ir, IrO₂, Pt, and any combination thereof.

92 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 77, wherein said combined amount is sufficient to provide the substrate surface with a WWNU of less than about 12% upon polishing of the substrate surface with the composition.

93 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 77, wherein said combined amount is sufficient to provide the substrate surface with a WTWNU of less than about 5%.

94 (currently amended). A combination of a chemical mechanical polishing composition in contact with method for polishing a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, ~~a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof~~, comprising:

providing to said a substrate having a surface, wherein said surface a dielectric material and has at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, and wherein said surface is contacting a composition comprising:

periodic acid in an amount from about 0.05 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram;; and

an abrasive in an amount from about 0.2 to about 6 weight percent, said composition having a pH selected from a group consisting of a pH from about pH 1 to less than pH 2 and a pH from above pH 5 to about pH 10;

~~polishing a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof, wherein the substrate further comprises a dielectric material, and wherein on polishing the substrate surface with the composition contacting the surface~~ the selectivity of the composition for polishing the noble metal-containing material over polishing the dielectric material is at least 1:1.

95 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the amount of periodic acid is from about 0.075 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram.

96 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the amount of periodic acid is from about 0.075 to about 0.175 moles/kilogram

97 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the amount of the abrasive is from about 0.2 to about 4 weight percent.

98 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the pH is from about pH 6 to about pH 10.

99 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, further comprising a pH-adjusting agent.

100 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 99, wherein the pH-adjusting is selected from a group consisting of a quaternary amine, an inorganic base, and any combination thereof.

101 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 99, wherein the pH-adjusting agent comprises an agent selected from a group consisting of tetramethylammonium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and any combination thereof.

102 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, further comprising a suspension agent.

103 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 102, wherein the suspension agent comprises an agent selected from a group consisting of an organic acid, a surfactant, another abrasive, and ethyl carbonate.

104 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the abrasive comprises an abrasive having a Mohs ~~Mohs~~ hardness number of greater than about 6.5.

105 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the abrasive comprises an abrasive selected from a group consisting of alumina, silica, zirconia, spinel, zirconium nitride, carbide, and any combination thereof.

106 (currently amended). The combination method of any of claims 94 through 102, wherein the abrasive comprises alumina.

107 (Canceled).

108 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein said composition provides the substrate surface with a WTWNU of less than about 5% upon chemical-mechanical polishing thereof.

109 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94 wherein the feature comprises Ir.

110 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the feature comprises IrO₂.

111 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 94, wherein the feature comprises platinum.

112 (currently amended). A combination of a composition in contact with method ~~for polishing~~ a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, ~~a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof,~~ comprising:

A) ~~providing to said substrate surface~~ a composition consisting essentially of:

- 1) water;
- 2) periodic acid in an amount from about 0.05 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram;
- 3) a first alumina abrasive in an amount from about 0.2 to about 6 weight percent;
- 4) optionally, a pH-adjusting agent in an amount sufficient to cause the pH of the slurry to be between about 1 to about 4 or between about 5 to about 10;
- 5) optionally, a suspension agent; and
- 6) optionally, an electrolyte, and wherein said composition is contacting

B) ~~polishing~~ a substrate surface having at least one feature thereon comprising a noble metal, ~~a noble metal alloy, a noble metal oxide, or any combination thereof.~~

113 (currently amended). The combination method ~~method~~ of claim 112 wherein the composition includes at least one pH-adjusting agent is selected from a group consisting of a quaternary amine, an inorganic base, and any combination thereof.

114(currently amended). The combination method ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the composition consists essentially of:

- 1) water;
- 2) periodic acid in an amount from about 0.05 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram;
- 3) an alumina abrasive in an amount from about 0.2 to about 6 weight percent; and
- 4) a pH-adjusting agent in an amount sufficient to cause the pH of the slurry to be between about 1 to about 4 or between about 5 to about 10.

115 (currently amended). The combination method ~~method~~ of claim 114, wherein the pH of the slurry is between about 1 to about 4.

116 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 114, wherein the pH of the slurry is between about 5 to about 10.

117 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 112, wherein the composition includes at least one suspension agent is selected from a group consisting of an organic acid, a surfactant, another abrasive, and ethyl carbonate.

118 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 112, wherein the composition consists essentially of:

- 1) water;
- 2) periodic acid in an amount from about 0.05 to about 0.3 moles/kilogram;
- 3) an alumina abrasive in an amount from about 0.2 to about 6 weight percent; and
- 4) optionally a pH-adjusting agent in an amount sufficient to cause the pH of the slurry to be between about 1 to about 4 or between about 5 to about 10; and
- 5) a suspension agent; and
- 6) optionally, an electrolyte.

119 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent is an organic acid.

120 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent is a surfactant.

121 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent is ethyl carbonate.

122 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent is a material having a CAS number of CAS#1344-28-1.

123 (currently amended). The combination method of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises a hydrous sodium lithium magnesium silicate.

124 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises ammonium polymethacrylate.

125 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises colloidal silica.

126 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises a surfactant.

127 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises an organic acid.

128 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises succinic acid.

129 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 118, wherein the suspension agent comprises a second abrasive different from the first abrasive.

130 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the feature comprises Ir.

131 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the feature comprises IrO₂.

132 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the feature comprises platinum.

133 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the feature comprises gold.

134 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the feature comprises silver.

135 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the first abrasive consists essentially of *alpha*-alumina.

136 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the first abrasive consists essentially of *gamma*-alumina.

137 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 112, wherein the first abrasive consists essentially of *alpha*-alumina and *gamma*-alumina.

138 (currently amended). The combination ~~method~~ of claim 122, wherein the substrate further comprises a dielectric material, and wherein the selectivity of the composition for polishing the noble metal-containing material over polishing the dielectric material is at least 1:1, ~~and further comprising a second polishing process utilizing a second composition, wherein the selectivity of a second composition for polishing the noble metal-containing material over polishing the dielectric material is about 1:1.~~

139 (new). The combination of claim 122, wherein the substrate further comprises a dielectric material, and wherein the selectivity of the composition for polishing the noble metal-containing material over polishing the dielectric material is about 1:1.